ARE WE GOING TO STRIKE OIL?

Text: 2 Kings 4:6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, 'Bring me yet a vessel.' And he said unto her, 'There is not a vessel more.' And the oil stayed.

INTRO. Lecture by J.F.Johnson becore Chamber of Commerce.
Conditions that are necessary to the locating of oil deposits with any degree of certainty.
Large deposits of marine growth, both vegetable and animal. Region must have been once under water.
Layer upn layer of sediment deposited on top until a very great pressure and heat created
Buckling of ~~ƒ~~/beds, without cracking, topped by a solid one, under the crests of which the oil collects.
Best methods for drilling for the oil. Nottake time for their consideeation, except to point out that after an oil field has been located it takes time and skill and energy and money to drilla well.

We read in the Scriptures about life's oil of gladness and oil of joy, for which all humanity strives in various ways to attain, but, oh, so few find it.
A Bible incident familiar to perhaps all of you.
Relate and give above text.
So long as there were vessels to be filled the oil flowed, but as soon as there were no more empty vessels, the oil ceased to flow.

The oil of joy and gladness is to be found in God and must be received from Him. And it must come from within ourselves. Just as the widow filled all the other vessels from her own vessel of oil, so God fills us with His joy and happiness, with His life and goodness from within ourselves. All of God that we shall ever hold will be realized from within ourselves. And just as it depended upon the number of vessels the widon could secure for filling, so the amount of God's oil we receive during our lifetime depends upon ourselves.

I. First of all, we must desire to secure the oil.
God has given us a great many things without our desiring them or asking for them, but his most precious gift of all, Himself personally, He withholds from us until we desire earnestly to possess it. God never forces his company upn anybody

God cannot make a man wise if the man refuses to be instructed. God cannot save a man from his sins if the man holds unto his sins and practices them with no desire to be freed from them.

God cannot give the oil of joy and gladness unless we desire them. "Ye have not because ye ask not."

But our desire must be more tha a mere wish. To desire earnestly means to will to get it by all possible right means.

The measure of our earnest desire is the measure of our capacity for God.

II. Along with our desire must go expectancy. Desire is one thing, confidently expecting to get what we want is another.

A patient's anticipation of recovery from sickness has much to do with his recovery

The man who is buying so much property in the near vacinity may not find the oil he is seeking, but one thing is certain, he never would find it if he was'nt expecting to find it.

This is always true, "According to thy faith be it unto you."

How surprised many Xns would be if their prayers were really answered. They do not expect them to be answered. They would be shocked if their prayers were answered. I sometimes suspicion that we really do not want some of our petitions to be granted.

We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, but if God's Spirit actually stirred us living in the fulness of the Christ way how we might have to change our ways! How much we would have to give up! How different we woul have to become, and being different from others is unbearable for many of us.

No, we cannot raise our confident expectations too high, for as the apostle puts it, "He is abole to do abundantly above all that we ask or think" And the abindance is "that we may be filled with all the fulness of God."

II. But it takes more than an expectant desire to secure God's oil. We must conform ourselves to the conditions for receiving it.

There are definite donditions for locating and borin for oil in the earth. There are also definite conditions for boring for oil in God.

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." Doing the will of God. Obedience. Living Jesus Way. Practising the Xn virtues.